

REMARKS

Introduction

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 3-6 and 11-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18, 20 and 21 are pending in the application. Claim 9 has been amended. Claim 19 has been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §101

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of this claim and withdrawal of this rejection are earnestly solicited.

Claim 9 presently recites, among other things: "reading a first and a second pixel" and "calculating a first interpolation pixel" with a "first motion compensation interpolator"; "reading a third and a fourth pixel" and "calculating a second interpolation pixel" with at least a "second motion compensation interpolator"; "calculating a candidate interpolation pixel" with a "candidate interpolation pixel calculator"; "analyzing the estimated motion vectors of the current block and the peripheral blocks" with a "motion analyzer"; and "selecting among the first interpolation pixel and the candidate interpolation pixel as a final interpolation pixel" and "outputting the selected final interpolation pixel" with a "final interpolation pixel selector." Applicants respectfully submit that as, for example, FIGS. 1 and 6 illustrate, and claim 9 presently recites, a "first motion compensation interpolator," a "second motion compensation interpolator," a "candidate interpolation pixel calculator," a "motion analyzer," and a "final interpolation pixel selector," claim 9 is "tied to a particular machine or apparatus," and therefore "fall[s] within one of the four statutory categories of invention."

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration of this claim and withdrawal of this rejection are earnestly solicited.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 18 and 20-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi et al. "New Frame Rate Up-Conversion Using Bi-Directional Motion Estimation," I.E.E. Transactions on Consumer Electronics, Vol. 46, No. 3, (hereinafter, "Choi") in view of Heising et al., "Wavelet-based Very Low Bit Rate Video Coding Using Image Warping and Overlapped Block Motion Compensation" I.E.E. Proceedings: Vision, Image and Signal Processing, Vol. 148, No. 2, April 2001, (hereinafter, "Heising"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Referring to independent claim 1, in the Office Action dated February 19, 2009, the Examiner alleges that Choi and Heising in combination with one another disclose all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicants agree that Choi fails to teach or suggest "a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative locations where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated" and "a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer." On pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Heising discloses:

a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative location where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated, and further comprising a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer (Heising, refer to lines 15 to 12 of the left hand column, lines 29 to 34 and lines 35 to 36 of the right column in page 95, lines 12 to 18 of the right column in page 99, the first paragraph of the left column in page 100, Figure 2a, and formula 3 and 4).

However, it is respectfully submitted that Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in

combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest all of the features as recited in independent claim 1, for at least the following reasons.

Referring to page 95, lines 15 to 21 (left column), FIG. 2a, and formula 3 of Heising as relied upon by the Examiner, Heising describes that in "sequences with differently moving objects," warping prediction "is not capable of dealing properly with motion discontinuities at the object borders." In this case of "sequences" with "differently moving objects," Heising describes using "overlapped block motion compensation" in the blocks by "superimposing four predicted intensity values" that use "nonlinear weighting functions." Heising describes that the "four predicted values" for intensity that are used as "weighting functions" are "computed by employing the translational motion model" with "one of the four vectors" of the "four surrounding vertices for each prediction," and that "one bit is transmitted indicating the used prediction type." In other words, Heising describes using "overlapped block motion compensation" in the blocks for "sequences with differently moving objects," by "superimposing four predicted intensity values" that use "nonlinear weighting functions" – not "calculat[ing] a candidate interpolation pixel" by "allocating a predetermined weight to the first and the second interpolation pixels" according to "relative locations where the first and the second interpolation pixels are interpolated." It is submitted that Heising describes that "intensity values" using "nonlinear weighting functions" are "superimposed" on blocks with "sequences with differently moving objects," not "calculat[ing] a "candidate interpolation pixel" by "allocating a predetermined weight" to the "first and the second interpolation pixels" according to "relative locations" where the "first and the second interpolation pixels" are "interpolated."

Referring to page 95, lines 29-34 and 35-36 (right column), FIG. 2a, and formula 4 of Heising as relied upon by the Examiner, Heising describes that to "force the estimation of smooth vector fields" a "Langrangian multiplier" is "used to choose the best control point motion vector considering the prediction error" and the "location motion vector variance" between the "candidate vector" and "eight motion vectors" of its "neighboring control points." Heising describes that the "decision whether to use warping prediction or OBMC for a block" is also based on formula 4. In other words, Heising describes that a "Langrangian multiplier" is used to "choose the best control point motion vector" when considering the "prediction error" and the "location motion vector variance" between the "candidate vector" and "eight motion vectors" of

its "neighboring control points," not "calculat[ing]" a "candidate interpolation pixel" by "allocating a predetermined weight" to the "first and the second interpolation pixels" according to "relative locations" where the "first and the second interpolation pixels" are "interpolated." It is submitted that Heising describes "choos[ing] the best control point motion vector," not "calculat[ing]" a "candidate interpolation pixel."

Referring to page 99, lines 12 to 18 (right column) and page 100, first paragraph, of Heising as relied upon by the Examiner, Heising describes a comparison of prediction capabilities of "different motion models" (i.e.: "bilinear warping," "affine warping," "OBMC," and "BMC" -- "block motion compensation") by using a "Foreman sequence" such that the "last original frame" is used for "motion estimation and compensation." Heising describes that the "bilinear warping model performs best, followed by OBMC, affine warping and BMC." Heising describes that "using the proposed combination of bilinear warping and OMBC" the "prediction can be further improved," whereas "combining OBMC with BMC ... leads to worse predictions." In other words, Heising describes an experiment to compare the prediction capabilities of "bilinear warping," "affine warping," "OBMC," and "BMC" using a "Foreman sequence" such that the "last original frame" is used for "motion estimation and compensation," not "calculat[ing]" a "candidate interpolation pixel" by "allocating a predetermined weight" to the "first and the second interpolation pixels" according to "relative locations" where the "first and the second interpolation pixels" are "interpolated." At best, Heising describes that the "prediction can be further improved" by combining "bilinear warping and OMBC," not "calculat[ing]" a "candidate interpolation pixel" by "allocating a predetermined weight" to the "first and the second interpolation pixels" according to "relative locations" where the "first and the second interpolation pixels" are "interpolated."

Therefore, Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest, among other things, "a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to calculate a candidate interpolation pixel by allocating a predetermined weight to the first and the second interpolation pixels according to relative locations where the first and the second interpolation pixels are interpolated, among the current blocks to be interpolated" as recited in claim 1.

Since Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not

teach or suggest each of the features as recited in claim 1, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Claims 7 and 8

With regard to claims 7 and 8, it is requested that for at least the reasons that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in claim 1, claims 7 and 8 are also patentable over Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Claim 9

Referring to independent claim 9, in the Office Action dated February 19, 2009, the Examiner alleges that Choi and Heising in combination with one another disclose all the limitations recited in independent claim 9. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges and Applicants agree that Choi fails to teach or suggest "a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative locations where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated" and "a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer." On pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Heising discloses:

a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative location where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated, and further comprising a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer (Heising, refer to lines 15 to 12 of the left hand column, lines 29 to 34 and lines 35 to 36 of the right column in page 95, lines 12 to 18 of the right column in page 99, the first paragraph of the left column

in page 100, Figure 2a, and formula 3 and 4).

However, it is respectfully submitted that Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest all of the features as recited in independent claim 9, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Therefore, Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest, among other things, "calculating a candidate interpolation pixel by allocating a predetermined weight to the first and the second interpolation pixels according to relative locations where the first and the second interpolation pixels are interpolated among the current blocks to be interpolated with a candidate interpolation pixel calculator" as presently recited in claim 9.

Since Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest each of the features as recited in claim 9, claim 9 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Claims 15 and 16

With regard to claims 15 and 16, it is requested that for at least the reasons that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 9, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in claim 9, claims 15 and 16 are also patentable over Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Claim 17

Referring to independent claim 17, in the Office Action dated February 19, 2009, the Examiner alleges that Choi and Heising in combination with one another disclose all the limitations recited in independent claim 17. On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner

acknowledges and Applicants agree that Choi fails to teach or suggest "a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative locations where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated" and "a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer." On pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Heising discloses:

a candidate interpolation pixel calculator to allocate a weight to the first and the second pixels according to relative location where the first and the second pixels are to be interpolated, and further comprising a motion analyzer, the final interpolation pixel selector selects a final interpolation pixel according to the output result of the motion analyzer (Heising, refer to lines 15 to 12 of the left hand column, lines 29 to 34 and lines 35 to 36 of the right column in page 95, lines 12 to 18 of the right column in page 99, the first paragraph of the left column in page 100, Figure 2a, and formula 3 and 4).

However, it is respectfully submitted that Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest all of the features as recited in independent claim 17, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Therefore, Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, fail to teach or suggest, among other things, "calculating a candidate interpolation pixel by allocating a predetermined weight to a first interpolation pixel and a second interpolation pixel according to relative locations where the first and the second interpolation pixels are interpolated among the current blocks to be interpolated" as recited in claim 17.

Since Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another, do not teach or suggest each of the features as recited in claim 17, claim 17 is patentably distinguishable and deemed to be allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Claims 18, 20, and 21

With regard to claims 18, 20, and 21, it is requested that for at least the reasons that these claims depend from allowable independent claim 17, and therefore contain each of the

features as recited in claim 17, claims 18, 20, and 21 are also patentable over Choi and Heising, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 2 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Choi in view of Heising in view of Ohm, Jens-Ranier, "Motion Grid Interpolation with Simple Contour Adaptation," (hereinafter, "Ohm"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

With regard to claim 2, it is requested that for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 1, and therefore contains each of the features as recited in claim 1, claim 2 is also patentable over Choi, Heising, and Ohm, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

With regard to claim 10, it is requested that for at least the reason that this claim depends from allowable independent claim 9, and therefore contains each of the features as recited in claim 9, claim 10 is also patentable over Choi and Heising, and Ohm, whether taken alone or in combination with one another.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 13 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Claims 3-6 and corresponding claims 11-14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." The Examiner further states that "[r]egarding claims 3-6 and corresponding claims 11-14, none of the references of record alone or in combination suggest or fairly teach the limitations contained therein."

Serial No.: 10/823,674
Docket No.: 102-1024
Amendment dated May 5, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of February 19, 2009

With regard to claim 3-6 and 11-14, it is requested that for at least the reasons that these claims depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 9, respectively, and therefore contain each of the features as recited in claims 1 and 9, respectively, claims 3-6 and 11-14 are also patentable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections and allowance of these claims are earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, there being no other objections or rejections, this application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

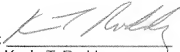
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 502827.

Respectfully submitted,

STANZIONE & KIM, LLP

Dated: May 5, 2009
919 18th St., NW, Suite 440
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 775-1900
Facsimile: (202) 775-1901

By: 
Kevin T. Roddy
Registration No. 50,577